

# CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

WALTER M. DICKIE, M.D., Director

## Weekly Bulletin



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GUY P. JONES  
EDITOR

## *Real Estate Subdivision and the Public Health\**

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There has been a tendency during recent years toward the development of many subdivisions without provision of adequate facilities for the maintenance of community sanitation. There are three types of such subdivisions that have come to the attention of the State Department of Public Health recently.

1. Subdivisions in mountainous districts, in canyons and in similar localities well suited for vacation purposes.

2. Subdivisions located on the outskirts of growing communities.

3. Subdivisions located close to and serving large industrial areas.

The first type of subdivision, located upon land suited for vacation purposes, has caused no little concern to health officers throughout California. The lots in those areas are generally sold at very low prices. They are, in most instances, very narrow and also of little depth. They are intended for summer home purposes and little or no consideration is given to adequate facilities for safeguarding the health of individuals who may build there. There is no provision made for community sewage disposal, and very often no community provision for a water supply is provided. The lots are so small in area that it is impossible for effluent from a septic tank to be disposed of properly within the limited area covered by the lot. Too often there is not even sufficient water to provide satisfactory sewage disposal. No provision is made for the frequent removal of garbage

and other waste. These conditions result in the development of common nuisances which may endanger the health and lives of individuals who may reside upon the property, as well as that of residents in the immediate vicinity. The development of such a subdivision may not be dependent upon any restrictions, since it is outside of incorporated cities. Such subdivisions result in dissatisfaction upon the part of the buyer and failure of the subdivider to make the project a successful financial venture.

The second type of subdivision referred to, located on the outskirts of cities, is productive of similar public health problems. Too often the same conditions relative to lack of community methods for sewage disposal, lack of an adequate community water supply and no provision for disposal of garbage and other waste, lead to the development of intolerable nuisances. Individuals who may build cheap homes upon such property have no enthusiasm to remain, and they often let their payments lapse, title to the property reverting to the owner.

The third type of subdivision is that which is located in the newer industrial districts, designed especially for sale to the man who works for low wages. The same problems of sanitation are often encountered upon such tracts of land. Very often, however, these subdivisions are located within the territory served by an efficient health officer, and sanitation is greatly improved through the constant efforts of such health officer. Generally, however, improvements are of a

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temporary nature and can not assume any degree of permanence until such time as a community water supply and a community sewage disposal system may be provided.

Some California cities have passed ordinances which prohibit the development of any new tract of land unless provision is made for the establishment of an adequate sewerage system, constructed according to the municipal regulations. Wherever such subdivisions are under municipal control, the existence of any possible nuisance can be prevented easily; but when such subdivisions are located in typically rural territory, without any restrictions whatsoever, conditions which constitute a menace to health and life may very easily develop within a short space of time. It is our belief that the ultimate success of any real estate venture is dependent, to a no small degree, upon the provisions for the development of sanitation upon such property. Failure to provide common facilities for sanitation is unfair to the buyer, and it is also unfair to individuals who have already taken up their homes in the vicinity. The State Department of Public Health takes the stand that no tract of land designed for residential purposes should be permitted to go on the market unless ample provision has been made for successful sewage disposal and for an adequate supply of water that is suitable for domestic purposes. Until such time as the realtors themselves are able to check the development of insanitary subdivisions, this menace to health will be encountered. The active cooperation of the realtors in this important matter is needed, in order that there may be no deterrent factor that may injure the health and happiness of buyers of real estate in California.

### THE POINTS OF A GOOD JOB

"Difficulty and crudeness enough to call out latent powers of mastery.

Variety so balanced with monotony as to suit the individual need.

A Boss.

A chance to achieve and build something to recognize what we have done.

A title and a place which is ours.

Connection with some institution, some firm, or some cause which we can loyally serve.

Honorable and pleasant relations with our comrades in work. Fulfill these conditions, and work is one of the best things in life."—*Dr. Richard C. Cabot.*

"Having now freed man from much or most of his ancient labors, the next great work for science is to make of this new freeman with 'time to think' a being who is happy, not because of the amazing things he owns, but because of the amazing things he can do and think."—*John J. Davis, Secretary of Labor.*

### ENGINEERING PROFESSOR PRAISES CALIFORNIA AUTOMOBILE CAMPS

Professor James R. Griffith, assistant professor of Civil Engineering at the Armour Institute of Technology, Chicago, has an article in the June issue of *The Highway Magazine* entitled "A community is remembered by the camps it keeps." In this article Professor Griffith gives opinions of forty-one automobile camps where he stayed while on an 8000-mile trip from Chicago to the southwest, up the Pacific coast, through the northwest and back to Chicago. He describes one California camp as "Unquestionably the camp we found having the most convenient facilities" and under a large photographic reproduction of another California camp is the caption, "Will last year's tourists again stop at your city, or motor through your state or county? Such neat, comfortable roadside camps as this one invite tourist business." Unfortunately, Professor Griffith encountered many insanitary camps in other states. He concludes his article with the significant statement, "The poor camps are always complaining that they are unable to supply conveniences due to their lack of trade. The good camps are usually full. I believe that when municipal and highway authorities appreciate the impression fixed by the auto camp, they will take pains to control them. Possibly state laws controlling the wayside camp would still better conditions." Concerning the essentials of automobile camp sanitation, Professor Griffith makes the following statement:

"If I were listing the desirable qualities of an auto camp in order of their importance, they would be:

- (1) General cleanliness.
- (2) Adequate and convenient toilet facilities.
- (3) Hot water shower baths.
- (4) Congenial atmosphere.
- (5) Laundry facilities.
- (6) Convenient source of supplies for food, gas, and oil.
- (7) Community kitchens.
- (8) A few cabins."

Science is the topography of ignorance.—*Oliver Wendell Holmes, M.D.*

The little good I have done is that which has cost me the greatest trouble and has encountered the most numerous obstacles.—*William Hunter, M.D.*

Certainly physicians can not prolong our lives by a single day: We live as long as God wills; but it makes a great difference whether we live miserably, like poor dogs, or keep well and fresh, and here a wise physician can do much for us—*Goethe.*

### MANY CASES OF TYPHOID AND MALARIA IMPORTED INTO CALIFORNIA

With the development of interstate automobile travel, there is a corresponding increase in the numbers of cases of communicable disease that are brought into California. Out of seventy-six cases of malaria reported in California last year, thirty-six were in persons who recently arrived and who had been infected outside of the state; five cases were in persons who were infected while traveling within California and seven cases were contracted in known malarial districts.

Case histories for 431 out of the 686 cases of typhoid fever reported in 1928 were gathered by the State Department of Public Health. Investigations by the state led to the discovery of sources of infection for 117 of these cases. Ninety-five of these were due to contact with carriers; two cases were due to contact with other cases of the disease and twenty cases had their sources in infected milk.

Fifty-two of these cases of typhoid were in travelers, thirty-five of whom were infected outside of California; seventeen within California. Thirty cases were in itinerant workers. The delta of the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers, where large numbers of agricultural laborers are employed, contributed seventy-six of the typhoid fever cases out of the 686 reported. In 175 cases there were no histories of the patients having been out of town within thirty days prior to the onset of the disease. In 122 cases there was a history of having been out of town during the three weeks immediately preceding the onset of the attack. In consideration of the tremendous volume of automobile travel to this state, it is remarkable that more cases of communicable diseases are not found in travelers.

### TUBERCULOSIS WORK AMONG HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

During the past few years, the Bureau of Tuberculosis of the California State Department of Public Health has been active in securing diagnoses of tuberculosis among high school students. By means of an automobile truck equipped with X-ray apparatus operated by a trained technician, the making of diagnoses has been greatly facilitated. X-ray work has been carried on during the gymnasium period, thus saving considerable time to students and school authorities. Only recognized chest specialists conduct the examinations and all high school freshmen or ninth grade students are given examinations if they are desired. This work has also been carried on in some of the orphanages and boys' clubs in California.

### ONE HUNDRED AND TWO CHILDREN AIDED THROUGH CRIPPLED CHILD ACT

Since the Crippled Child Act went into effect in the fall of 1927, certificates enabling the treatment of 102 children have been issued. Three such certificates were issued in 1927, sixty-eight in 1928, and during the first four months of 1929 thirty-one such certificates have been issued. The appearance of 1274 cases of epidemic poliomyelitis in 1927 led to the making of a comprehensive survey of paralyzes by the State Department of Public Health. A large number of crippled children were left in the wake of this disastrous epidemic. All counties of the state, with the exception of Alameda, San Francisco, Inyo, and Los Angeles city, were covered in the survey. Home visits and calls upon local physicians for the purpose of ascertaining the condition of children who had suffered from epidemic poliomyelitis were made in all of these counties. During 1928 twenty-four counties of the state were visited and cases checked. The following table gives full information concerning the results obtained through the operation of the Crippled Child Act during the nineteen months that it has been in operation:

|                                                          |     |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Number of certificates issued.....                       | 102 |
| Cases dismissed as cured.....                            | 8   |
| Cases no longer hospitalized but still under observation | 43  |
| Cases in convalescent homes.....                         | 4   |
| Cases pending.....                                       | 8   |
| Cases which have not been hospitalized.....              | 8   |
| Cases which died.....                                    | 2   |
| Cases hospitalized.....                                  | 29  |
| Number of surgeons.....                                  | 22  |
| Number of hospitals.....                                 | 21  |
| Number of counties.....                                  | 34  |

### NEW HEALTH OFFICER AT SAN BERNARDINO

Dr. W. W. Fenton has been appointed city health officer of San Bernardino to succeed Dr. Ivan Lewis Finkelberg.

### MORBIDITY\*

#### Diphtheria.

49 cases of diphtheria have been reported, as follows: Alameda County 1, Oakland 2, Brawley 1, Los Angeles County 6, Alhambra 1, Glendale 3, Huntington Park 1, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 15, Maywood 2, Merced County 1, Orange 2, San Diego 1, San Francisco 5, Santa Clara County 1, San Jose 1, Santa Rosa 1, Modesto 2, Ventura 1, Marysville 1.

#### Scarlet Fever.

379 cases of scarlet fever have been reported, as follows: Alameda 3, Emeryville 1, Oakland 36, Piedmont 1, Jackson 1, Contra Costa County 1, Pittsburg 1, Fresno County 21, Fresno 9, Parlier 11, Humboldt County 1, Brawley 2, Kern County 5, Bakersfield 1, Hanford 1, Los Angeles County 36, Alhambra 2, Compton 2, Covina 1, Glendale 5, Huntington Park 1, Long Beach 6, Los Angeles 49, Santa Monica 1, Whittier 1, Lynwood 1, Hawthorne 1, Monterey Park 1, Signal Hill 3, Merced County 1, Monterey County 1, Pacific Grove 1, Grass Valley 2,

\* From reports received on May 20th and 21st, for week ending May 18th.

Fullerton 1, Placer County 1, Auburn 1, Roseville 3, Riverside 1, Sacramento 14, San Benito County 2, Hollister 1, Ontario 1, Escondido 2, National City 1, San Diego 20, San Francisco 48, San Joaquin County 2, Manteca 1, Stockton 26, Daly City 1, San Mateo 1, Santa Clara County 8, Gilroy 1, San Jose 10, Watsonville 2, Redding 2, Rio Vista 3, Santa Rosa 4, Stanislaus County 4, Modesto 5, Visalia 1, Marysville 2.

#### Measles.

124 cases of measles have been reported, as follows: Berkeley 1, Oakland 6, Fresno 4, Humboldt County 2, Eureka 1, Los Angeles County 5, Burbank 17, Glendale 2, Huntington Park 5, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 19, South Gate 1, Alturas 2, Orange County 1, Placer County 3, Riverside 1, Sacramento 11, San Diego County 1, San Diego 19, San Francisco 7, San Jose 3, Redding 9, Rio Vista 2, Davis 1.

#### Smallpox.

44 cases of smallpox have been reported, as follows: Alameda 1, Berkeley 4, Oakland 2, Colusa County 2, Glenn County 2, Humboldt County 8, Eureka 1, Kings County 2, Los Angeles County 2, Long Beach 2, Monterey County 2, Banning 1, San Benito County 2, San Jose 6, Watsonville 5, Redding 1, Tulare County 1.

#### Typhoid Fever.

9 cases of typhoid fever have been reported, as follows: Oakland 1, Los Angeles 1, Monrovia 1, Torrance 1, Sacramento 1, San Bernardino County 1, San Diego 1, California 2.\*\*

#### Whooping Cough.

299 cases of whooping cough have been reported, as follows: Alameda 1, Albany 2, Berkeley 12, Oakland 21, Contra Costa County 4, Kern County 4, Bakersfield 2, Los Angeles County 30, Alhambra 2, Compton 1, Glendale 5, Huntington Park 4, Inglewood 1, Long Beach 4, Los Angeles 23, Monrovia 1, South Pasadena 2, Whittier 5, South Gate 3, Monterey Park 2, Signal

Hill 1, Merced County 3, Orange County 4, Anaheim 1, Fullerton 7, La Habra 2, Riverside 8, Sacramento 7, San Diego County 23, National City 2, Oceanside 3, San Diego 11, San Francisco 61, San Joaquin County 13, Lodi 1, Stockton 4, San Luis Obispo County 1, Santa Barbara County 2, Palo Alto 7, San Jose 1, Santa Cruz 1, Vallejo 3, Tulare County 1, Ventura 2, Ojai 1.

#### Meningitis (Epidemic).

19 cases of epidemic meningitis have been reported, as follows: Brawley 1, Los Angeles County 1, Monterey County 6, Riverside County 1, Sacramento 2, San Diego 2, San Francisco 2, San Joaquin County 3, California 1.\*\*

#### Leprosy.

Los Angeles reported one case of leprosy.

#### Poliomyelitis.

4 cases of poliomyelitis have been reported, as follows: Contra Costa County 1, Humboldt County 1, Los Angeles County 1, Tulare County 1.

#### Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever.

Modoc County reported two cases of Rocky Mountain spotted fever.

#### Food Poisoning.

South Pasadena reported one case of food poisoning.

#### Tularemia.

Santa Ana reported one case of tularemia.

#### Coccidioidal Granuloma.

Los Angeles reported one case of coccidioidal granuloma.

\*\* Cases charged to "California" represent patients ill before entering the state or those who contracted their illness traveling about the state throughout the incubation period of the disease. These cases are not chargeable to any one locality.

### COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORTS

| Disease                      | 1929        |       |        |                                                   | 1928        |       |        |                                                   |
|------------------------------|-------------|-------|--------|---------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------|--------|---------------------------------------------------|
|                              | Week ending |       |        | Reports for week ending May 18 received by May 21 | Week ending |       |        | Reports for week ending May 19 received by May 22 |
|                              | April 27    | May 4 | May 11 |                                                   | April 28    | May 5 | May 12 |                                                   |
| Actinomycosis.....           | 0           | 1     | 0      | 0                                                 | 1           | 0     | 0      | 0                                                 |
| Anthrax.....                 | 0           | 0     | 0      | 0                                                 | 0           | 1     | 0      | 0                                                 |
| Botulism.....                | 0           | 0     | 0      | 0                                                 | 0           | 0     | 2      | 0                                                 |
| Chickenpox.....              | 593         | 566   | 713    | 549                                               | 514         | 527   | 529    | 625                                               |
| Coccidioidal granuloma.....  | 0           | 0     | 0      | 1                                                 | 0           | 0     | 0      | 0                                                 |
| Diphtheria.....              | 55          | 58    | 44     | 49                                                | 87          | 99    | 87     | 101                                               |
| Dysentery (amoebic).....     | 0           | 0     | 0      | 7                                                 | 4           | 0     | 0      | 2                                                 |
| Dysentery (bacillary).....   | 9           | 1     | 2      | 3                                                 | 3           | 0     | 2      | 0                                                 |
| Encephalitis (epidemic)..... | 2           | 2     | 0      | 0                                                 | 3           | 0     | 0      | 1                                                 |
| Erysipelas.....              | 27          | 16    | 16     | 15                                                | 16          | 24    | 10     | 15                                                |
| Food poisoning.....          | 0           | 0     | 0      | 1                                                 | 14          | 17    | 1      | 0                                                 |
| German measles.....          | 44          | 25    | 36     | 35                                                | 377         | 294   | 335    | 324                                               |
| Gonococcus infection.....    | 154         | 95    | 92     | 96                                                | 96          | 124   | 172    | 81                                                |
| Hookworm.....                | 0           | 2     | 0      | 2                                                 | 6           | 0     | 0      | 0                                                 |
| Influenza.....               | 49          | 27    | 30     | 57                                                | 29          | 34    | 36     | 43                                                |
| Leprosy.....                 | 0           | 0     | 1      | 1                                                 | 2           | 1     | 0      | 0                                                 |
| Malaria.....                 | 1           | 2     | 1      | 5                                                 | 0           | 0     | 2      | 2                                                 |
| Measles.....                 | 106         | 108   | 122    | 124                                               | 115         | 136   | 117    | 120                                               |
| Meningitis (epidemic).....   | 24          | 25    | 22     | 19                                                | 6           | 4     | 3      | 6                                                 |
| Mumps.....                   | 550         | 547   | 587    | 605                                               | 361         | 287   | 355    | 292                                               |
| Ophthalmia neonatorum.....   | 1           | 2     | 1      | 0                                                 | 0           | 0     | 1      | 0                                                 |
| Pellagra.....                | 2           | 1     | 0      | 1                                                 | 2           | 1     | 4      | 2                                                 |
| Pneumonia (lobar).....       | 68          | 64    | 47     | 48                                                | 136         | 64    | 58     | 44                                                |
| Poliomyelitis.....           | 1           | 1     | 3      | 4                                                 | 6           | 9     | 8      | 2                                                 |
| Rabies (human).....          | 0           | 0     | 0      | 0                                                 | 0           | 0     | 0      | 0                                                 |
| Rabies (animal).....         | 16          | 13    | 15     | 12                                                | 11          | 13    | 15     | 8                                                 |
| Rocky Mt. spotted fever..... | 0           | 0     | 0      | 2                                                 | 0           | 5     | 0      | 0                                                 |
| Scarlet fever.....           | 490         | 465   | 448    | 379                                               | 124         | 162   | 175    | 143                                               |
| Smallpox.....                | 110         | 73    | 74     | 44                                                | 19          | 23    | 0      | 30                                                |
| Syphilis.....                | 192         | 160   | 178    | 104                                               | 148         | 106   | 283    | 181                                               |
| Tetanus.....                 | 2           | 2     | 1      | 0                                                 | 1           | 0     | 1      | 1                                                 |
| Trachoma.....                | 4           | 3     | 3      | 3                                                 | 2           | 1     | 6      | 3                                                 |
| Tularemia.....               | 0           | 0     | 0      | 1                                                 | 0           | 0     | 0      | 0                                                 |
| Tuberculosis.....            | 173         | 214   | 217    | 206                                               | 282         | 194   | 217    | 190                                               |
| Typhoid fever.....           | 11          | 11    | 14     | 9                                                 | 4           | 8     | 19     | 14                                                |
| Undulant fever.....          | 0           | 0     | 2      | 0                                                 | 0           | 0     | 0      | 0                                                 |
| Whooping cough.....          | 329         | 303   | 294    | 299                                               | 397         | 253   | 316    | 333                                               |
| Totals.....                  | 3012        | 2786  | 2963   | 2681                                              | 2766        | 2387  | 2754   | 2563                                              |

**Rocky Mountain spotted fever** has made its first seasonal appearance with reports of two cases.

One case each of tularemia and of coccidioidal granuloma were reported last week.

Chickenpox, mumps, scarlet fever and whooping cough continue at high levels of prevalence.